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This Month at the Museum...

Remembering Our Veterans



Every year on November 11, the United States celebrates Veterans Day, a day that provides an opportunity for Americans across the country to both remember, honor, and give thanks to all of those who have served the country in war and peace. Veterans Day's creation is linked to the "Great War," World War I. On Armistice Day, November 11, 1918, at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh

month, fighting ceased between Germany and the Allied Nations, setting the stage for the end of World War I with the signing of the Treaty of Versailles on June 28, 1919. To commemorate the end of the fighting, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed November 11, 1919 as the first Armistice Day recognition, calling for the day to be "filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and gratitude for the victory." In 1938, Congress declared Armistice Day an official legal national holiday. With both World War II and the Korean War, the ranks of America's service members dramatically swelled and to recognize their patriotism and self-sacrifice, President Dwight Eisenhower signed legislation changing the name of the holiday from "Armistice Day" to "Veterans Day." While its date shifted several times throughout the latter half of the twentieth century, in 1978 President Gerald Ford signed Public Law 94-97 that reestablished November 11 as the official day of the observance. Continue reading this month's newsletter to learn more about how the National Museum of the American Sailor is expressing its gratitude to our Navy veterans during this month of "thanksgiving."

Bells of Peace: A World War I Remembrance

November 11th, 2020



Launched in 2018 to recognize and honor all of those who served and sacrificed in World War I, the Bells of Peace national tolling of the bells is continuing in 2020. Join NMAS and other organizations across the country on November 11, Armistice Day, and recognize and honor those who served in World I by ringing a bell, actual or virtual, at 11:00 a.m. local time. To discover more about how you can sign a pledge and virtually "ring" a bell to remember World War I veterans, visit the [NMAS Facebook page](#).



No Sailor Forgotten: Introducing "My Sailor Story"

During this month of giving thanks, the National Museum of the American Sailor is introducing its newest initiative,

#MySailorStory, which collects and shares a “sea story” about you or family member’s time as a Navy sailor! We invite followers of the National Museum of the American Sailor to share and learn about stories or memories of current and former enlisted sailors regarding their service in the United States Navy. These stories can be collected from Navy family members, spouses, or the sailors themselves. Submissions will be collected and shared through NMAS’ website and social media channels. To explore more about how you can share a story, visit our website for more information.



[Find Out More](#)

Noteworthy Scuttlebutt

Sailor's Attic - Stories of the Navy's Enlisted Sailor **Preserving Their Past: NMAS Curators and the American Sailor**

As part of its mission in remembering and honoring the American Sailor, the NMAS preserves the physical relics of their past. From century-old uniform buttons and badges to photographs and diaries, what is it like to care for thousands of Sailor-related artifacts and millions of documents? This month on the NMAS blog, the Sailor's Attic, the museum's curatorial staff answers questions about what it is like managing one of the country's largest collections of Sailor-related artifacts. Check out this month's blog to learn more about their favorite artifacts and the daily work they do to preserve the history of the enlisted Sailor.



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Season's Eatings



One hallmark of the month of November is the traditional Thanksgiving meal. While this year's holiday meal may be different due to COVID-19, one thing will remain the same: American Sailors will continue to crave the cozy atmosphere of home-cooked meals even while at sea or stationed at bases away from home. It is the duty of the Navy's Culinary Specialists to develop special holiday meals and menus to bring some of this feeling to sailors in the fleet. Explore how these Culinary Specialists created

special holiday menus for sailors on ships from mashed potatoes to fruitcakes and everything in between.

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Artifact Spotlight - Remembering “*Remember the Maine*”

Although its estimated age is around 122 years old, this artifact is a recent acquisition for the National Museum of the American Sailor's permanent collection. This small brightly colored pin-back features “Remember the Maine” and a color image of the battleship USS Maine steaming through

blue waters. Fastened at the button of this pin is a small silk American Flag. While anchored in the Havana Harbor in Cuba, on 15 February 1898 at 9:40 p.m. an explosion rocked the USS Maine. Because of this explosion, 260 men lost their lives that night and an additional six in the following days. Many of the deceased were enlisted sailors. While the actual cause of the explosion is still unclear, an official inquiry into the explosion concluded that a mine under the ship caused the blast. Others believed that more than five tons of powder aboard the ship ignited. Regardless of the explosion's cause, the sinking of the Maine acted as a catalyst for the Spanish-American War. Throughout the war, numerous Navy sailors during the conflict answered the rally call to "Remember the Maine" by getting Maine-related tattoos of the ship or its perished sailors.



The New Jersey manufacturing firm Whitehead & Hoag, a patriotic manufacturing company that also produced flags, banners, badges, and buttons in remembrance of the sinking of the Maine, created this pin. This pin symbolizes not only the patriotism of those who remembered the Maine, but the honor, courage, and commitment to those veterans' lives that were lost.

The National Museum of the American Sailor received this donation via a gift from the National Museum of the American Sailor Foundation (NMAAF). To learn more about the National Museum of the American Sailor Foundation please visit their website at nmasf.org

[Visit the NHHC online](#) to learn more about the sinking of the USS Maine.

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